

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**FACT SHEET**

**APPROVAL TO EXECUTE A NEW SOLE SOURCE  
FISCAL INTERMEDIARY AGREEMENT WITH  
THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**REQUEST**

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign and execute a sole source Fiscal Intermediary Agreement with The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, substantially similar to Attachment I, for the purpose of providing stipends to 196 social work students matriculating at 17 colleges/universities throughout the State of California for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08. For FY 2007-08 the Agreement will have a Total Contract Amount (TCA) of \$5,818,340 fully funded with FY 2005-06 and 2006-07 unspent Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Support (CSS) one-time funds.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION**

Board approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to implement a stipend program with The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley for FY 2007-08, to ensure continued funding of student stipends for this current academic year.

The State Department of Mental Health (SDMH) administered this stipend contract with UC Berkeley in Fiscal Years 2005-06 and 2006-07. The State Department of Finance subsequently ruled that the SDMH needed to engage in a budget authority approval process in order to continue administering this program at the state level. Because this program is one of many MHSA programs needing to go through this process, SDMH determined that the time line for legislative consideration and approval would jeopardize funding student stipends for the current year. In late September 2007, discussions occurred between SDMH and The California Mental Health Director's Association's (CMHDA) Governing Board (of which LACDMH is a member) whereby it was agreed that Los Angeles County was the logical choice to take responsibility for this stipend program, since it easily had the most student stipends in jeopardy. CMHDA endorsed this plan to ensure the stipend program would be funded this fiscal year. In early October 2007, SDMH contacted LACDMH requesting a Fiscal Intermediary Agreement for Academic Training be developed between LACDMH and The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley. LACDMH's Executive Management Team agreed to support this effort since it directly benefits the County's mental health network of care and addresses a Statewide shortage of qualified mental health professionals.

Due to the late nature of the request from the SDMH and the varying academic year start dates, an effective date of July 1, 2007 was selected to ensure stipends are available for currently enrolled graduate students.

The social work stipend program reflects the immediate need throughout the State and in Los Angeles County, to increase the number of social workers who are trained in a series of competencies based on the Mental Health Services Act. Only the Schools/Departments of Social Work that are members of the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) provide training in these competencies. Such competencies support and promote recovery and wellness through independence, hope, personal development and resiliency for children, adults, and older adults with serious emotional and behavioral disorders. Additionally, DMH and its contract providers need social workers who are culturally and linguistically competent, provide services that are sensitive and responsive to the needs of local communities, and focus on issues of ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation and religious/spiritual beliefs. Consistent with the shared vision of the mental health partnership, social workers must be trained to provide services in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting, with attention to consumer and family involvement at all levels of the mental health system. Social workers must be able to address the special mental health needs of persons with co-occurring substance abuse and emotional disorders and be able to recognize that these individuals and their families are at risk for diverse bio-psycho-social factors which can affect their functioning.

DMH proposes continuing to work, through a Fiscal Intermediary Agreement for Academic Training, with The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley to provide stipends to 196 social work students enrolled at 17 Schools/Departments of Social Work throughout the State of California who embraced the competencies outlined above and have begun implementing them in classroom and field work settings. Los Angeles County has the largest number of second year MSW graduate students participating in the stipend program. Once these individuals graduate, they are committed to work within one of DMH's directly operated or contracted programs for a minimum of one (1) year, providing a much needed and appropriately trained expansion of Los Angeles County's public mental health workforce.

Of the 196 stipends, 57 are allocated to universities within Los Angeles County (USC, UCLA, CSU Long Beach and CSU Los Angeles). Each stipend is \$18,500. The total amount of stipends awarded statewide will be \$3,626,000. In addition to the 196 stipends, the funding will provide for Program Coordinators at each of the participating schools. The program coordinators will work to ensure that students entering the second-year MSW programs are committed to the values and principles of the MHSA and are working in community public mental health agencies.

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) has current stipend contracts with other colleges and universities in the Los Angeles area; however, these campuses cannot train sufficient numbers of second-year graduate MSW students in a fashion consistent with the values and principles of the MHSA, nor can it expand the curriculum to other campuses.

## **BACKGROUND**

The MHSA-CSS Plan is a conceptual framework designed to create a culturally, competent mental health system that promotes recovery and wellness for adults and older adults with severe mental illness and resiliency for children and youth with serious emotional disorders and their families. The MHSA-CSS plan was approved by SDMH and the Board of Supervisors on February 14, 2006 and May 9, 2006 respectively.

LACDMH is in the process of implementing its MHSA-CSS Plan. Social work is an integral part of that plan. However, the Department does not currently employ nor is able to contract with sufficient number of social workers who are trained in service provision that is in accordance with the values and principles of the MHSA. As a result, to implement the CSS services in a manner consistent with the values and principles of the MHSA, the Department has an urgent need to properly train additional MSWs.

The services provided by the graduate social workers will advance the goals of recovery, resiliency and wellness as guiding concepts of the MHSA. The graduate social workers will be trained in a service delivery that goes beyond traditional mental health interventions to include support for all realms of a person's life: from education and employment to legal issues, from medical needs to improving family communication.

## **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended Board actions are consistent with the County's Organizational Goal No. 2, "Workforce Excellence" and Goal No 3 "Organizational Effectiveness, within the Countywide Strategic Plan. Providing training opportunities will allow DMH to recruit qualified employees and enhance the quality and productivity of the County workforce. Board approval of the recommended actions are expected to improve delivery, efficiency and effectiveness of mental health services across the county, as well as increasing the size and knowledge of the employee base that provides these services.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There is no increase in net County cost.

The Total Contract Amount (TCA) of \$5,818,340 includes \$3,626,000 for the 196 student stipends; \$1,673,865 for Program Coordinators and support staff at each of the 17 participating universities; and \$518,475 of indirect costs. The TCA will be fully funded from unspent FY 2005-06 and 2006-07 MHSA CSS one-time funding.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

On October 30, 2007, DMH notified the Board of its intent to enter into sole source contract negotiations with The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, who will serve as fiscal intermediary for a stipend program with CalSWEC. (See Attachment).

The State Department of Mental Health (SDMH) contacted LACDMH in early October 2007 requesting a Fiscal Intermediary Agreement for Academic Training be developed between LACDMH and The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley.

The Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, was selected because of its relationship with CalSWEC. The 17 campuses participating in CalSWEC can train a sufficient number of second-year MSWs in a manner that is consistent with the values and principles of the MHSA.

### **DMH CONTACT**

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